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Appl. No. : 09/523,375  
Applicant : Noriaki HASHIMOTO  
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Examiner : Bob A. Phunkulh

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Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT (CANCELING ALL NON-ALLOWED CLAIMS)**

Sir:

Further to the telephone discussion on Friday, March 19, 2004, with Examiner Phunkulh, this Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of December 31, 2003.

1. **Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 2 of this document.
2. **Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this document.
3. **Remarks** begin on page 38 of this document.